

demilitarized; and it is vital—absolutely vital—that Israel maintain a long-term military presence along the Jordan River. Solid security arrangements on the ground are necessary not only to protect the peace; they are necessary to protect Israel in case the peace unravels because, in our unstable region, no one can guarantee that our peace partners today will be there tomorrow.

And, my friends, when I say tomorrow, I don't mean some distant time in the future. I mean tomorrow.

Peace can only be achieved around a negotiating table. The Palestinian attempt to impose a settlement through the United Nations will not bring peace. It should be forcefully opposed by all those who want to see this conflict end. I appreciate the President's clear position on this issue. Peace can not be imposed. It must be negotiated; but peace can only be negotiated with partners committed to peace, and Hamas is not a partner for peace. Hamas remains committed to Israel's destruction and to terrorism. They have a charter. That charter not only calls for the obliteration of Israel. It says: kill the Jews everywhere you find them. Hamas' leader condemned the killing of Osama bin Laden and praised him as a holy warrior.

Now, again, I want to make this clear: Israel is prepared to sit down today and negotiate peace with the Palestinian Authority. I believe we can fashion a brilliant future for our children, but Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian Government backed by the Palestinian version of al Qaeda.

That we will not do.

So I say to President Abbas: tear up your pact with Hamas. Sit down and negotiate. Make peace with the Jewish state. If you do, I promise you this: Israel will not be the last country to welcome a Palestinian state as a new member of the United Nations; it will be the first to do so.

My friends, the momentous trials of the last century and the unfolding events of this century attest to the decisive role of the United States in defending peace and advancing freedom. Providence entrusted the United States to be the guardian of liberty. All people who cherish freedom owe a profound debt of gratitude to your great Nation. Among the most grateful nations is my nation—the people of Israel—who fought for their liberty and survival against impossible odds in ancient and modern times alike.

I speak on behalf of the Jewish people and the Jewish state when I say to you, representatives of America: thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your unwavering support for Israel. Thank you for ensuring that the flame of freedom burns bright throughout the world.

May God bless all of you, and may God forever bless the United States of America.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m., His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu,

Prime Minister of Israel, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 12:45 p.m.

□ 1245

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

#### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE PETER FRELINGHUYSEN

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness to inform the House of the passing late yesterday afternoon of one of the longest living former Members of the House, Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen. Congressman Frelinghuysen served in this House with effectiveness and distinction and honor between 1953 and 1975.

Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen was born in New York City in 1916. After graduating from Princeton University and then Yale School of Law, he served in the Office of Naval Intelligence during World War II. He was elected as a Republican to the 83rd Congress.

When he first entered Congress, he served on the Education and Labor Committee, and after that as ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in the early 1970s. After being elected to 10 successive terms in Congress, he retired in 1975.

Of course, all of my colleagues know that Peter's son, RODNEY, our distinguished colleague here in the House, is now in mourning, as is the rest of the

family. So on this sad day, I would invite all of my colleagues to join me in extending to RODNEY and his brothers, Frederick and Peter, and his sisters, Beatrice and Adaline, and their families, our deepest and most profound condolences.

Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen was proud of his work in the House. He was loved by the people of New Jersey, and we thank him for his extraordinary legacy of service.

#### PROTECT MEDICARE FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, health care is a right, not a privilege. We made a promise to our seniors that they will have health care when they retire, that they will not have to withdraw away as they age.

But Republicans have broken that promise. Republicans, by passing the Ryan budget, believe that seniors should fend for themselves, that America should not honor the bargain made with its seniors.

It's simple, Mr. Speaker. Republicans don't like Medicare. I am glad this new majority is showing its true colors. And it is no surprise that Americans don't like this position. They didn't like it when they tried to privatize Social Security, and they don't like the Republican plan to voucherize Medicare.

Republicans would rather break this promise for their partisan, ideological crusade. In contrast, Democrats stand with America's seniors. We believe America should keep its promise to America's seniors. We believe America's seniors deserve better.

Support Medicare.

#### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE PETER FRELINGHUYSEN

(Mr. BASS of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, yesterday America lost a great public servant, a great friend of the State of New Jersey, the father of one of my—if not my best friend in Congress, a friend of my family's, and just a wonderful guy.

Mr. Frelinghuysen—as I knew him, Peter Frelinghuysen—served in the Congress, as my friend from New Jersey just mentioned, from 1953 to 1975. He was the second or third oldest former Member of Congress. Now my father, who is 98, is the oldest former Member of Congress. Our families grew up together. We grew up in the spirit of public service, of good friendship, of bipartisanship, and of action.

I remember Mr. Frelinghuysen so well as a child, bringing us around here in the Chamber and around Capitol